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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited VIA HAND DELIVERY in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
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on August 6, 2004

Date of Deposit

Vincent J. Gnoffo, Reg. No. 44,714

Name of applicant, assignee or  
Registered Representative

*Vincent J. Gnoffo*  
Signature

*Aug. 5 2004*  
Date of Signature

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OFFICE OF PATENTS

Our Case No. 10781/9

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

Ioannis Pallikaris et al.

Serial No. 09/911,356

Filing Date: July 23, 2001

For DEVICE FOR SEPARATING THE  
EPITHELIUM LAYER FROM THE  
SURFACE OF THE CORNEA OF AN EYE

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)  
)  
) Examiner: Victor X. Nguyen  
)  
) Group Art Unit No.: 3731  
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**PETITION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.313(c)(2) FOR WITHDRAWAL OF  
APPLICATION FROM ISSUE AND CONSIDERATION OF A  
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

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Dear Sir:

The above captioned application is scheduled to issue as U.S. Patent No. 6,773,442 on Tuesday, August 10, 2004. Applicants' attorney became aware of prior art that Applicants would like to have considered before issuance of the patent.

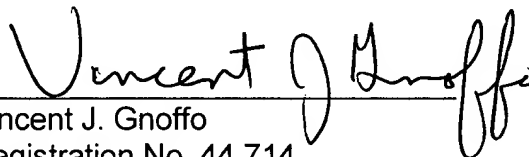
Because the Issue Fee has been paid, and in order to have time for consideration of a Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement prior to issuance of the patent, Applicants hereby petition to have the application withdrawn from issue for consideration of a Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. A Request for Continued Examination is being filed concurrently herewith.

Applicants respectfully request that this Petition be granted so that the RCE may be examined, and the Fourth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement may be considered and made of record.

A check to cover the \$130.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.313 and 1.17(i) is enclosed herewith. Should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason relating to the enclosed materials, or should an overpayment be included herein, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct or credit said fees from or to Deposit Account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this document is enclosed.

Any questions regarding this Petition may be directed to Vincent J. Gnoffo at (312) 321-4200.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Vincent J. Gnoffo  
Registration No. 44,714  
Attorney for Applicants

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